

June Dairy Month 2002

CHOCOLATE got milk?

Louisiana Dairy Facts

1. Louisiana's dairy industry generated an estimated \$336 million in economic activity in 2001.
2. Louisiana's total milk production in 2001 was 73,488,372 gallons.
3. Louisiana had 436 commercial dairy farms in 2001. This was a decline of 32 farms from the year before.
4. Louisiana had 54,000 milk cows in 2001.
5. A typical dairy herd in Louisiana had 124 cows last year.
6. Dairy herds in Louisiana produced an average of 1,361 gallons of milk for each cow in 2001.
7. Louisiana had ten fluid milk processing plants last year.
8. In 2001, dairy cows in Louisiana produced an average of 4.5 gallons of milk a day. To produce this much milk, a cow consumes 35 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and concentrated feeds, and 35 pounds of hay and silage.
9. Nationally, the average value of a day's milk is about \$8.40 per cow. It takes \$4.50 for the feed, \$1.60 for other supplies and \$2.10 for building and overhead to produce that milk, leaving an estimated 20 cents for labor and other investment expenditures.
10. The average cost of a cow in Louisiana was \$1,590 in 2001.
11. The top five ranking dairy parishes in the state based on milk production as of December 2001 are Tangipahoa, Washington, De Soto, St. Helena and Beauregard.